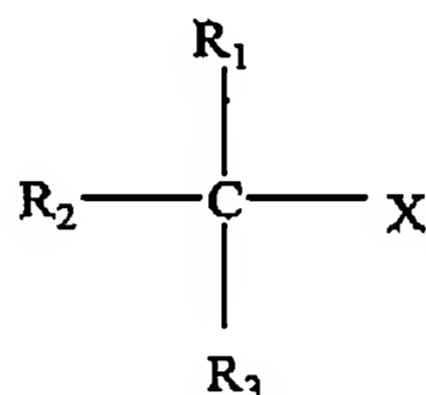
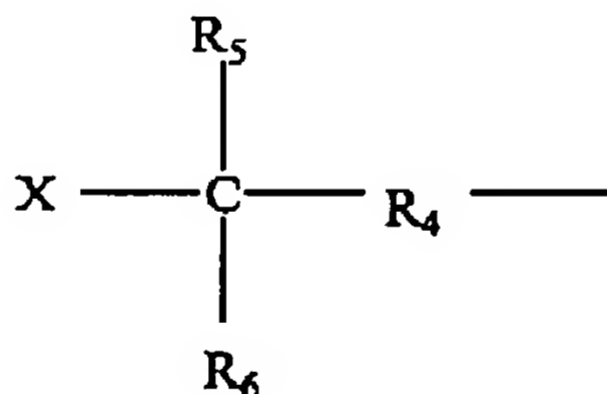


CLAIMS

1. (original) A polymerization method for use in a continuous slurry polymerization reactor in preparing random copolymers of one or more isoolefin monomers and one or more conjugated diene monomers, the reacted monomers forming the slurry within the reactor, the method comprising reacting in a polar diluent the isoolefin and diene monomers, a Lewis acid, and an initiator, wherein the initiator has the formula:



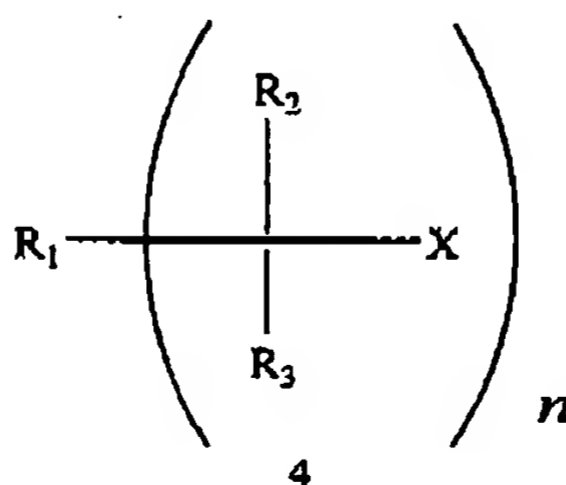
wherein X is a halogen; R₁ is selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₈ alkyl, and C₂ to C₈ alkenyl; R₃ is selected from the group consisting of, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, C₂ to C₈ alkenyl and phenylalkyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of C₄ to C₂₀₀ alkyl, C₂ to C₈ alkenyl, phenyl, phenylalkyl, alkylphenyl, C₃ to C₁₀ cycloalkyl, and



wherein X is a halogen; R₅ is selected from the group consisting of, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, and C₂ to C₈ alkenyl; R₆ is selected from the group consisting of, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, C₂ to C₈ alkenyl and phenylalkyl; and R₄ is selected from the group consisting of phenylene, biphenyl, α,ω-diphenylalkane and --(CH₂)_n--, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 10; and wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ can also form adamantyl or bornyl ring systems, the X group being in a tertiary carbon position; and

wherein the Lewis acid and the initiator are contacted with a contact time of from less than 60s prior to contacting with the isoolefin and the diene monomers.

2. (original) The polymerization method of claim 1, wherein the contact time is from less than 30s.
3. (original) The polymerization method of claim 1, wherein the contact time is from less than 25s.
4. (original) The polymerization method of claim 1, wherein the contact time is from less than 20s.
5. (original) The polymerization method of claim 1, wherein the contact time is from less than 15s.
6. (original) The polymerization method of claim 1, wherein the contact time is from less than 10s.
7. (original) The polymerization method of claim 1, wherein the contact time is from less than 5s.
8. (original) A continuous slurry polymerization process for preparing random copolymers of one or more isoolefin monomers and one or more para-alkylstyrene monomers comprising reacting in an anhydrous polymerization system of said monomers, a polar solvent, a Lewis acid, and an initiator, said polymerization system being capable of forming an in-situ electron pair donor initiator having the formula:



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wherein:

R₁ is an alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, or aralkenyl group containing up to 30 carbon atoms but not less than 3 carbon atoms unless R₁ contains at least one olefinic unsaturation,

R₂ and R₃ are alkyl, aryl, or aralkyl groups containing up to 30 carbon atoms and can be the same or different,

x is a halogen or a carboxy, hydroxyl, or alkoxyl group, and

n is a positive whole number; and

wherein the Lewis acid and the initiator are contacted with a contact time of from less than 60s prior to contacting with the isoolefin and the para-alkylstyrene monomers.

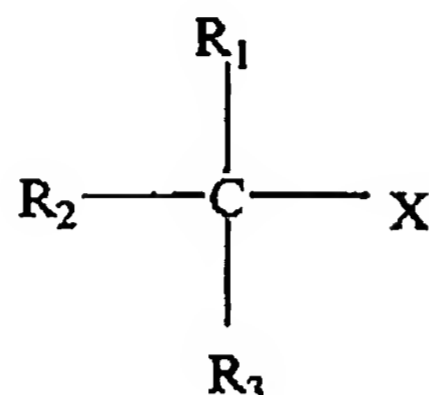
9. (original) The continuous slurry polymerization process of claim 8, wherein the contact time is from less than 30s.
10. (original) The continuous slurry polymerization process of claim 8, wherein the contact time is from less than 25s.
11. (original) The continuous slurry polymerization process of claim 8, wherein the contact time is from less than 20s.
12. (original) The continuous slurry polymerization process of claim 8, wherein the contact time is from less than 15s.
13. (original) The continuous slurry polymerization process of claim 8, wherein the contact time is from less than 10s.
14. (original) The continuous slurry polymerization process of claim 8, wherein the contact time is from less than 5s.
15. (currently amended) A polymerization method for use in a continuous slurry polymerization reactor in preparing a homopolymer of an isoolefin, the polymerization method comprising contacting isoolefin monomers, the reacted

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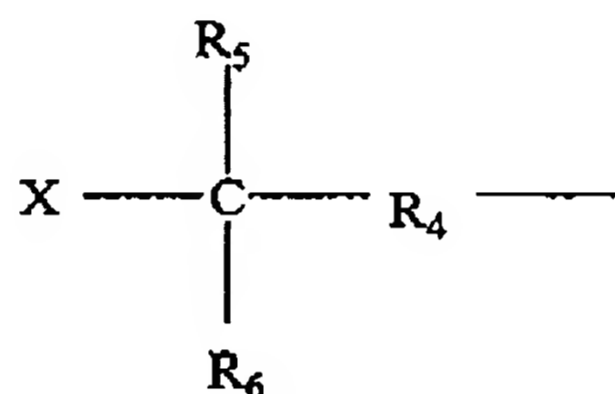
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~~monomers forming the slurry within the reactor,~~ a Lewis acid, and an initiator, wherein the initiator has the formula:



wherein X is a halogen; R₁ is selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₈ alkyl, and C₂ to C₈ alkenyl; R₃ is selected from the group consisting of, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, C₂ to C₈ alkenyl and phenylalkyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of C₄ to C₂₀₀ alkyl, C₂ to C₈ alkenyl, phenyl, phenylalkyl, alkylphenyl, C₃ to C₁₀ cycloalkyl, and



wherein X is a halogen; R₅ is selected from the group consisting of, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, and C₂ to C₈ alkenyl; R₆ is selected from the group consisting of, C₁ to C₈ alkyl, C₂ to C₈ alkenyl and phenylalkyl; and R₄ is selected from the group consisting of phenylene, biphenyl, α,ω-diphenylalkane and --(CH₂)_n--, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 10; and wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ can also form adamantyl or bornyl ring systems, the X group being in a tertiary carbon position; and

wherein the Lewis acid and the initiator are contacted with a contact time of from less than 60s prior to contacting with the isoolefin monomers.

16. (original) The polymerization method of claim 15, wherein the contact time is from less than 30s.
17. (original) The polymerization method of claim 15, wherein the contact time is from less than 25s.

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18. (original) The polymerization method of claim 15, wherein the contact time is from less than 20s.
19. (original) The polymerization method of claim 15, wherein the contact time is from less than 15s.
20. (original) The polymerization method of claim 15, wherein the contact time is from less than 10s.
21. (original) The polymerization method of claim 15, wherein the contact time is from less than 5s.

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